

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators Tuberville, Marshall, and Hoeven. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alabama.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, you know, I think Americans must look at what is happening up here in Washington, DC, and think that the Democrats look like squirrels dodging cars in traffic. This is Biden's America, one where the party in power is throwing policy spaghetti at the wall in hopes that one of their harebrained ideas will stick.

It would be almost funny if our country wasn't staring down multiple problems as a result of the Biden administration's policy failures. And it is time the Democrats faced the facts. But after 10 months of President Biden running the country, how are ordinary Americans doing?

Let's just take a look. Take the border crisis: a complete, predictable, self-inflicted disaster.

On his first day in office, President Biden made the radical decision to open our borders by undoing many successful policies put in place by the Trump administration. They were working, and we changed them. You can draw a straight line from those ill-advised policy decisions to where we are as we speak.

Two million illegal immigrants will have been apprehended by the end of this year, and those are just the ones that we caught. Oddly enough, this is one issue that the mainstream media and conservative media agree on.

Here are a few recent headlines. From CNN: "12,000 migrants have been waiting in makeshift camps under the Del Rio bridge in Texas." That is from CNN.

And this from the Daily Caller: "Migrants Illegally Crossing U.S.-Mexico Border Thank"—they thank—President "[Biden's] Administration."

Do those headlines sound like the southwest border is under control?

Here is another headline for you. In a remarkable about-face, the Biden administration announced that it would reimplement the Trump-era Remain in Mexico policy after doing away with it on election day. They are going to reinstate it only because of a Federal judge. It is clear President Biden could have prevented this border crisis if he had not been focused on playing politics from his first day in office.

This is Biden's America.

How about the fact that President Biden didn't listen to the best military advice his top commanders gave him when it came to withdrawing troops in Afghanistan? America's best experts—

GEN Mark Milley, GEN Frank McKenzie, and GEN Scott Miller—all advised the President to keep 2,500 troops in Afghanistan to remain stable. Basically, at the end of the day, this was a State Department and President's decision.

Instead, the President's strategy turned into billions in American equipment handed over to the Taliban; our most valuable airfield, Bagram—maybe one of the most valuable in the world—abandoned in dead of the night; Americans left behind in enemy lines that are still there; and a complete abandonment of our allies in Afghanistan. What a disaster.

President Biden was more concerned about a good September 11 headline than a great strategy, more concerned about his press than saving American lives. The President's withdrawal will continue to be a stain on his legacy. Joe Biden created the worst American military foreign policy disaster in recent history, and the United States will be haunted by this decision for many years to come.

Another fact about this is Biden's America: President Biden's policies have undercut economic growth and derailed rapid recovery that was taking place under the Trump administration. And this was even during a pandemic.

Now prices are skyrocketing, businesses can't find people to work, and the United States is facing an unprecedented disruption in the supply chain. And this administration didn't know it was coming.

Incredibly, the White House and its defenders continue to say that all of these deeply concerning realities are due to the fact that President Biden has been so successful in his economic policy. They are using the "everything is so bad because President Biden is doing so good" argument. Where in the world are they getting that from?

This month, the President's own Chief of Staff promoted the idea that inflation is only a "high-class problem," the 1 percent. Where has this guy been hiding? Try telling that to the middle-class families in Alabama who are seeing hard-earned money cover less at the grocery store and at the pump.

The fact is, prices are rising—not just for the wealthy but for everybody. Consumer prices are at the highest point in 13 years, and inflation is costing American taxpayers \$175 a month. Somebody is screwed up. Again, you can draw a straight line from the President's decisions to where we are now. It is what happens when you pay people to not rejoin the workforce, force vaccine mandates on workers, stifle growth with regulations, and waste trillions and trillions of dollars as our country attempts to recover from a pandemic.

And it will only get worse with this \$3.5 trillion tax-and-spend spree—not if when we raise taxes but when we raise taxes to pay for this socialist package. The American people aren't going to buy into it.

The fact is that this is Biden's America. His agenda has led to the border crisis, foreign policy disasters, and a financial strain on American families. This is Biden's America, where Democrats are focused on finger-pointing and scoring political points instead of paying attention to the cold, hard facts of their policy failures.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor today with a warning for Kansans and all Americans that the inflation we are seeing, Bidenflation, as I call it, is here to stay so long as those on the left continue to jam through reckless tax-and-spend bills.

Unfortunately, the inflation we are seeing is a double whammy. You have less money to spend, and the things you want to buy cost more. It is hurting every hard-working American but none more than our seniors and young families living paycheck to paycheck. No, President Biden, inflation is not a problem of just the high class. Indeed, there is no equity in Bidenflation.

Make no mistake, inflation and all of its lingering effects rest squarely on the shoulders of President Biden's failed social policies. It is yet another crisis created by this administration.

Having personally lived through the seventies and eighties, I have seen inflation happen firsthand. I have seen it bring so many businesses down. And to put it in simpler terms, inflation is a vicious cycle, like a dog chasing its own tail and the tail is on fire. And, of course, the Biden administration has been throwing gasoline on this fire since the moment they took office.

Today's inflation crisis began with Joe Biden's boondoggle stimulus bill and the preceding labor shortages. For months now, we are seeing "Help Wanted" signs everywhere, from the small mom-and-pop shops on Main Street to big hotel chains and fast-food restaurants. Employers are struggling to fill the open jobs they have despite raising wages and offering return-to-work bonuses.

This labor shortage is having a rippling effect across our economy, from slowing down the supply and logistics chains to putting an unfair burden on employees who choose to show up. This ripple has turned into a tidal wave of inflation and now a full-blown tsunami.

But the storm waves don't stop there. The cost of living has increased as a result of production delays caused by labor shortages. Higher costs at home, such as the cost of gasoline, vehicles, groceries, and energy costs caused workers to go on strike asking for higher wages just to make ends meet.

Folks, I have got news for you: Wages never keep up with inflation. All this, in turn, drives up the cost of goods and services even more. You get the point.

Inflation is a vicious cycle. This is the dog chasing its own tail.

But Bidenflation doesn't stop there now. Why? Because President Biden is throwing more gasoline on the fire with his unconstitutional vaccine mandate. I, too, have seen this firsthand. Just last week, I was in Kansas to meet with union members who are facing the difficult choice of keeping their jobs or getting the COVID vaccine.

These folks aren't just mad; they are panicked. And it is literally job or jab for them. In fact, the unions I spoke with estimate they will lose 30 to 50 percent of their workforce due to Joe Biden's vaccine mandate. This will make both our supply chain shortages as well as inflation even worse.

Mr. President, while I support the COVID vaccine and encourage folks to talk to their doctor about whether to get it, there is no doubt that President Biden's vaccination decree is an all-out assault on our private businesses, our civil liberties, and our entire constitutional system of limited government.

And it is a slap in the face to so many people who stood on the frontlines of the COVID battle last year and never stopped working: nurses, doctors, first responders, and those union workers I met with last week. Trust me, I have heard loud and clear these few weeks from Kansans about what they want, and it is not an unconstitutional vaccine mandate. It is not the socialism that is born out of trillions of dollars' worth of spending and taxing that has led to reckless inflation, hampered our economy, and killed our jobs.

The question is, Do Americans want Big Government socialism or do we want economic freedom and prosperity? Kansans agree that if you want strong roads, bridges, high-speed internet, good schools, and a strong military, we need a strong economy. That should be our focus right now, not continuing down this administration's socialist economic policies.

Pre-COVID, we had the greatest economy in my lifetime. That came about because we lowered people's taxes; we lowered regulations; and we lowered energy prices. We need smart, targeted investments, not radical spending that leaves the country at a disadvantage.

Unfortunately, in the meantime, everyone better buckle up and grab your wallets. Bidenflation is here to stay as long as this administration continues its reckless taxing, reckless borrowing, and reckless spending agenda.

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, before I wrap up, I want to voice my support for Kansas City's bid to serve as host city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup prior to tomorrow's highly anticipated venue visit by FIFA representatives.

Kansas is home to some of the most devoted, fanatic soccer fans in the world that are ready to cheer on Team

USA, and what better place to do it than in America's heartland. The Kansas City community, alongside Sporting KC, has shown unwavering commitment to make this dream a reality, and Kansas City is no stranger to hosting major sporting events, from the Big 12 Men's Basketball Conference Championships, NCAA March Madness, and plans to host the NFL Football Draft in 2023.

We have great, fan-friendly facilities and something for everyone in the family to do. We have the lodging, public transportation, shopping and dining options needed to make the 2026 World Cup a great success. The FIFA World Cup is the largest and most prestigious single-sport event in the world, and there is no better place for it to be held than Kansas City.

Thank you.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the harmful impacts that President Biden's policies are having on the global supply chain and consumer energy prices.

Americans today are facing the highest increase in costs for goods and services in over a decade, with inflation now more than 5 percent and rising. Similarly, our workforce participation rate is stagnant. There are still 4.3 million fewer workers today than there were in February of 2020. Nationally, there are more than 10 million job openings—more than in any other year.

Record high job openings, coupled with rapidly increasing consumer demand, is causing disruptions to global supply chains and further increasing costs, increasing inflation. Rather than working to spur economic growth, encourage workforce participation, and return our economy to growth, as we saw with the last administration, President Biden and the Democrats in Congress are focused on raising taxes and enacting harmful, job-killing policies.

A prime example of what I am talking about—harmful policies being pushed by the Biden administration—is the Green New Deal that will hinder domestic energy production and increase the expense for every American household.

Affordable and reliable energy is foundational to our economy, quality of life, and national security. Across the country and in my home State of North Dakota, we are seeing energy prices rise across the board. Drivers are paying more for fuel at the pump, and homes and businesses are prepared for record high heating costs as we go into the winter months.

Because the cost of energy is built into virtually every product we consume, we are seeing the inflationary pressures of higher prices on goods across the entire economy, all the way

to the dinner table. For an energy-rich nation such as ours, the situation we find ourselves in is unacceptable, and it is certainly avoidable.

In the first week of his administration, President Biden yanked the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline and halted new oil and gas leases on Federal lands and offshore. President Biden's party has also called for new taxes and fees on American energy production.

In addition, the Biden administration is promoting foreign energy production as he stifles energy production here at home. He has allowed completion of Russia's Nord Stream 2 Pipeline while calling on Russia, Saudi Arabia, and other OPEC nations to increase more oil production. Think about that. At a time when he is holding back energy production in our country—oil production in our country, he is asking OPEC, Saudi Arabia, and Russia to increase oil? It defies common sense. Think about it.

If the Biden administration continues down this path, it will not only cause further increased prices for consumers, but it will undermine our energy independence and harm our national security by forcing reliance on foreign energy production.

It is time we recognized the fact that our country's vast oil, gas, and coal resources are a strategic national security and economic asset. As we have seen over the past decade, greater U.S. energy production has strengthened our national security and lowered energy prices for hard-working American families.

The fact is, we should be focused on increasing economic growth, encouraging workforce participation, and restoring our economy to its prepandemic highs. Support for our domestic energy production is a vital step to bringing down prices for consumers, and we need to do it.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:28 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JAMES C. O'BRIEN, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF SANCTIONS COORDINATION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR. (NEW POSITION)

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate October 20, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CATHERINE ELIZABETH LHAMON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.